

Testimony for the Committee on Energy and Technology

In Support of
**H.B. No. 7156AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED
FROM OFFSHORE WIND**

and In Support of
**S.B. No. 875AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY
PORTFOLIO**

Submitted by **Barbara Backman**
February 26, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Needleman and Arconti, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. No. 7156, An Act Concerning the Procurement Of Energy Derived From Offshore Wind and S.B. No. 875 An Act Expanding Connecticut's Offshore Wind Energy Portfolio.

- In 2018, a bipartisan General Assembly approved climate and energy bills setting aggressive targets for both greenhouse gas emissions reduction (45% below 2001 levels by 2030) and renewable energy (40% by 2030). Offshore wind is essential to make this target achievable.
- Governor Lamont has called for an even more aggressive timetable that envisions Connecticut becoming carbon neutral and securing 100% of its power from renewable sources by 2050. Again, offshore wind is essential in achieving that vision.
- I support the Committee's call for up to 2000 MW of offshore wind. However, the bill should be amended to mandate DEEP to procure 2000 MW by 2030. MA and NY have solid commitments similar to that. If we don't send a strong message to the industry - Connecticut wants to be a regional hub for offshore wind staging and supply chain activities - then those jobs will go elsewhere.
- I support both bills' labor provisions which will ensure that the jobs created by these investments are high-quality jobs with health and safety protections.
- NOTE: Neither bill incorporates any environmental protections. At a minimum, the legislation should require the DEEP Commissioner to consider whether submitted proposals "contain explicit descriptions of the best management practices to be employed, as informed by the latest science at the time of a proposal, to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems, and traditional or existing water dependent uses."

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on these bills.

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